



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 10 2010

OFFICE OF  
WATER

Ms. Caitlin Lushington  
4023 Mesa Road, #202C  
Irvine, CA 92617

Dear Ms. Lushington:

Thank you for your letter to Administrator Jackson of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), dated January 27, 2010, in support of the Center for Biological Diversity's petition for the development of water quality criteria for endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs).

EPA shares your concern regarding effects of EDCs on public health and the environment and has developed a strategy for addressing the issues related specific to pharmaceuticals and personal care products some of which are EDCs (<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/ppcp/>). The Agency is responding to the issues of contaminants of emerging concern in water, including those that may be EDCs, with a specific focus on:

1. improving science;
2. improving public understanding;
3. identifying partnership and stewardship opportunities; and
4. taking regulatory action when appropriate.

Specifically regarding aquatic life, EPA Office of Water (OW) and the Office of Research and Development (ORD) jointly developed and presented the white paper regarding how to address the specific technical issues concerning derivation of aquatic life criteria for contaminants of emerging concern that may have endocrine disrupting characteristics. This work was presented to the Science Advisory Board (SAB) for an advisory meeting in June 2008 <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/aqlife/cec.html>. The SAB generally concurred with the information and recommendations that OW and ORD presented. EPA is currently making revisions based on SAB comments and recommendations and will be publishing the white paper as a technical support document (TSD) later in 2010.

The TSD will be invaluable in enabling both EPA and the public to address the technical issues and challenges in deriving aquatic life criteria for some contaminants of emerging concern (particularly estrogenic substances) when necessary and appropriate. The tools presented in the TSD are intended to augment the current *1985 Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses* ("Guidelines"), and are not intended to replace the Guidelines.

OST staff is currently reviewing the Center for Biological Diversity's petition for the development of water quality criteria for EDCs for potential opportunities to further advance the science regarding the EDCs of concern, particularly when the need arises and adequate information exists.

If you would like to discuss any of these issues further, please feel free to contact Joe Beaman, Chief, Ecological Risk Assessment Branch at (202) 566-0420.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Beaman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph Beaman, Chief  
Ecological Risk Assessment Branch  
Health and Ecological Criteria Division